

Application No. 10/643491
Reply to Office Action of September 27, 2005

Docket No.: 05899-00016-US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-27. (cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A microemulsion which comprises an additive, and said additive is an AB block copolymer and said AB block copolymer consists of the structures according to the pattern AB, ABA or BAB having a water-soluble block A and a water-insoluble block B and wherein block B polymer is a polydiene or an at least partially hydrated polydiene.
29. (previously presented) The microemulsion according to claim 28, wherein the water-insoluble block B is soluble in aliphatic hydrocarbons and in mineral oils.
30. (Currently amended) The microemulsion according to claim 28, wherein said additive is an AB block copolymer having the structure according to the pattern ~~ABA or BAB~~.
31. (Currently amended) The microemulsion according to claim 28, wherein the block A has a molecular weight between ~~500 μ and 60,000 μ~~ 500 g/mol and 60,000 g/mol.
32. (Currently amended) The microemulsion according to claim 28, wherein the block B has a molecular weight between ~~500 μ and 60,000 μ~~ 500 g/mol and 60,000 g/mol.
33. (previously presented) The microemulsion according to claim 28, wherein the block A polymer is a polyethylene oxide.
34. – 35. cancelled

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36. (Currently amended) The microemulsion according to claim 33 ~~claim 34~~, wherein said block copolymer AB as side chains, block B comprises as least one component selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, phenyl and vinyl.
37. (previously presented) The microemulsion according to claim 28, wherein the microemulsion is an admixture in a substance.
38. (Currently amended) A method for increasing the efficiency of surfactants through the admixture of additives having a water-soluble fraction and a water-insoluble fraction, characterized in that an AB block copolymer and said AB block copolymer consists of the structures according to the pattern AB, ABA or BAB and having a water-soluble block A and a water-insoluble block B is admixed as the additive.
39. (New) The microemulsion according to claim 28, wherein said AB block copolymer has the structure according to the pattern AB.
40. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein said AB block copolymer has the structure according to the pattern AB.
41. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein said AB block copolymer has the structure according to the pattern BAB.
42. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein said block B polymer is a polydiene or an at least partially hydrated polydiene.
43. (New) A detergent which comprises the microemulsion as claimed in claim 28.

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44. (New) An additive in food product which comprises the microemulsion as claimed in claim 28.
45. (New) A cosmetic which comprises the microemulsion as claimed in claim 28.
46. (New) Oil extraction applications which comprises the microemulsion as claimed in claim 28.
47. (New) Soil clean-up operations which comprises the microemulsion as claimed in claim 28.